

Purpose in Mountain Naming

By JACK FOSTER

SEN. JOHN R. BIRMINGHAM'S proposal that the name of Mt. Massive be changed to Mt. Sir Winston Churchill doesn't deserve even the scant attention that the Leadville City Council promises to give it at the next meeting.

As a resident in young Bermingham's district, I must suggest that he ought to find more useful purposes in the legislature than trying to meddle with the natural beauty of Colorado.

For if there ever was a mountain that is appropriately named it is Mt. Massive. Raising its broad shoulders to an altitude of 14,408 feet, it straddles the Continental Divide west of Leadville—a giant of rock and ice, a symbol of the power and solidity that is Colorado.

Though nearby Mt. Elbert rises 27 feet higher to be the state's tallest peak, it does not have the breadth or majesty of Massive. In winter Massive is burdened with tons of snow, margined by bare ridges where the winds have howled. In summer, when the storms gather, lightning cracks from basin to basin as if Jove were saluting a brother.

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THERE MAY BE PRETTIER mountains in Colorado—Shavano, perhaps, or Sopris or the Maroon Bells. But none of them imparts that sense of having been formed-for-the-ages as does Mt. Massive.

Furthermore, nothing could be less appropriate than to name any mountain after Sir Winston. If young Bermingham wanted to change the name of Sloans Lake to Sir Winston Churchill Lake, this might make some sense, for Winnie was surely a sea captain. Or if he wanted to change Stapleton Airport to Winnie's Airport he might make a case, for Churchill certainly rose like a phoenix from the bombs and ashes of the Battle of Britain.

But a mountain—never! I doubt whether he ever climbed one.

Mind you, there are precedents in Colorado for changing the names of mountains.

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WHEN COL. CHARLES A. LINDBERGH soloed the Atlantic in 1927 in his single-propeller plane, Spirit of St. Louis, there was a great hue and cry to change the name of dramatic Lone Eagle Peak to Lindbergh Peak.

This was, of course, improper. For an individual's name must not be given to a mountain until he is dead. And Lindbergh was—and still is—very much alive. Despite this, some uninformed people do call it Lindbergh Peak, and many maps violate tradition by doing the same.

Another example of re-christening occurred several years ago after the death of Malcolm Lindsey, for many years Denver's devoted city attorney. Friends believed that he should be remembered in the heart of some mountain.

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AND THERE WAS GOOD reason, for Lindsey was an experienced alpinist and was as responsible as anyone else for the completion of Moffat Tunnel which pierced James Peak. Towering Old Baldy Peak near La Veta Pass in the jagged Sangre de Cristo Range was selected and now it is Mt. Lindsey.

Next Sunday, in solemn services, another mountain will be re-named. On the flank of Battle Mountain which overlooks the lovely little city of Steamboat Springs skiers and townsfolk, brother and friends will gather.

There, burdened by their thoughts, they re-name the mountain, Werner Mountain, in memory of a lad who was born in Steamboat, who learned to ski there, who became an Olympic champion, and who died far too young in an avalanche in the Alps.

There is purpose and reason for such a mountain change.

Korean War Began Defeat

By HENRY J. TAYLOR

WHILE OUR AIRCRAFT carriers retaliate from the South China Sea and while armed Americans die in South Viet Nam one by one—quietly, tragically, obediently—seldom have the American people known so little about something that means so much.

An old Chinese maxim mocks us there: "The trees want to be still but the wind doesn't stop."

We hardly even know how the wind began to blow. But the source of the wind was Korea.

Korea is the only major war America ever entered that we did not win. History always notes this—a towering warning to the No. 1 nation of the world every time it ever occurred. The risks can be mortal.

The Reds struck South Korea on Sunday, June 25, 1950, at 4 o'clock in the morning. We sent more than a million Americans to the task. Then the truce plan was



Taylor

Colorado Peak to Honor Churchill?

State Sen. John R. Bermingham Thursday proposed renaming of Colorado's third highest mountain, Mt. Massive, 12 miles southwest of Leadville, to Mt. Sir Winston Churchill.

Bermingham sent a letter to Peter Cosgriff, Leadville Chamber of Commerce president, asking for Leadville reaction on the idea.

The 14,418-foot mountain is the

highest in Colorado not already named for a distinguished man.

If area residents approve, Bermingham said, he'll introduce a Senate resolution to permit all Coloradans to sponsor the name change. The Domestic Names Committee of the U.S. Interior Department then would be asked to change it.

Couple to Observe Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Scerens of 2555 Birch st., will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary Saturday with an open house 5 to 7 p.m. at their home.

Married Feb. 6, 1915, in England, the couple moved to Leadville 13 years ago. Scerens was a machinist until his retirement three years ago.



HOWARD